



Stimpson Avenue Academy
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Executive Head: Sarah Bennett
Head of School: Kim Kemp

1st July 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER

The summer term is whizzing by and the end of the year is fast approaching. Where does the time go? I am so proud of the achievements of all the staff and, of course, your incredible children, this year. Thank you to all of the parents and carers, for your continued support and kind words of recognition for all the hard work carried out by the staff this year. Everyone has been so supportive and encouraging; we could not have achieved all the amazing things this year without such unfailing commitment from both staff and parents – thank you from the bottom of my heart. Stimpson Avenue Academy is truly a wonderful place to be.

Reports and Celebration Evening

Your child's report will be given out at the end of the day on Wednesday 6th July to your child in a sealed envelope. Please talk to your child about the importance of not opening this and handing it directly to you. This report is a celebration of your child's achievements this year – from both an academic and pastoral standpoint and their targets for next year. I really hope you enjoy reading them and if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to request an appointment with the class teacher during the Celebration Parent Consultation Drop In Evening on Tuesday, 13th July from 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

ParentPay Email Facility

From September, I would like us to use the email facility on our ParentPay system as our main form of communication. This has numerous benefits including being more efficient, more cost-effective, quicker and most importantly ensures you actually receive the information! If you wish to advise us of your email address please collect the relevant form from the entrance foyer by the office. Only one form per family needs to be completed. If you do not have access to the internet, we will ensure we send you paper copies and spare copies will be available in the entrance to the school.

Ramadan Celebration

Mrs Zafar kindly came into school this week and held assemblies for years one to six about Ramadan and the religious importance of the Islamic holy month celebrated by Muslims across the world. The children enjoyed learning about Ramadan and a massive thank you to Mrs Zafar who gave up her time to provide these assemblies for us.

Congratulations to our Teach First Teachers

Our three Teach First Teachers have now successfully completed their two-year employment at Stimpson Avenue Academy and are looking forward to pursuing their teaching careers in pastures new! Miss Burton is moving to a school in Nottingham near her family, Miss Perry is moving to the buzzing capital, London and finally, Miss Critchley is going to teach in Australia! I am sure you will all agree they have made a fantastic contribution to life at Stimpson Avenue Academy and we will all miss them greatly. We wish them the very best for their futures as teachers and I am sure they will continue to be an asset to the teaching profession.

Fun, fun, fun!

This has certainly been a busy time of year for trips and visits for so many of the children. The children have had an amazing time and there has been one common theme from all the visits; the positive comments about how delightful they are! Year 6 have managed to squeeze in, around their writing assessments, a visit to "Aerial Extreme" (they certainly are braver than me!) and a transition sports day. There are more to follow in July as some Year 6 children are going to visit the Houses of Parliament in London – what an incredible opportunity that will be for our competition winners! Year 5 are equally keeping busy with their incredible class assembly and preparing for their upcoming talent contest! They are also looking forward to their trip to the Cripps Theatre, especially after all the excitement Year 4 have shared after their visit there. Perhaps someone from Year 5 will remember to bring me back some pop corn! Year 4 also loved their sports festival day with some of the local cluster schools and enjoyed having the opportunity to meet other children and make new friends. They competed against 6 other schools and were delighted to come first and win the cup! Year 2 have also visited Abington Park this week to carry out a traffic survey, take photographs for ICT and create maps of the park.



[The EU Referendum – So what do your children think?](#)

As I am sure you are all aware, the country voted to leave the European Union last Thursday, 23rd June. We thought it would be really important to involve the children in this important event – after all they are our future – to see what they thought about us leaving or remaining in the EU. I thought you would be very interested to know the outcome of the Stimpson Avenue Academy Pupil Poll. Very interestingly the win was a landslide with 80% of the pupils voting to remain IN the EU and 20% voting OUT.

I was really impressed with how passionately and informatively the children spoke about this vote and their clear rationale as to why they thought we should remain in the EU.

[Parents' Quiz Night](#)

What a fabulously fun evening we had at our first ever quiz night on Wednesday, 22nd June. Thank you to our Quizmaster Rich and to all the teams that took part. Congratulations to “The Everstars” who were the winning team. We all enjoyed the quiz night so much that we are already looking forward to the next one.



Can we also take this opportunity to remind you that Helping Hands will be holding their annual Summer Fair on Saturday, 9th July between 12.00 pm and 2.00 pm. If you are able to help on the day this would be very much appreciated. Please contact Helping Hands on stimpsonhelpinghands@outlook.com. We look forward to seeing you there.

All the best!

I am sad to inform you that Tara Parker will be leaving us at the end of the term to move to a small, village school in Northamptonshire and Aimee Gray is also leaving us to move to London. They have both been incredible and I know they will continue to flourish in their new roles. I would like to wish them the very best for their continued teaching career.

Welcome!

I am excited to inform you that we have successfully recruited teachers for every class across the school and they are all experienced teachers who definitely exhibited a clear passion and heart for the children. The new staff structure and their roles will follow shortly.

Making a difference – Stimpson Avenue Academy Student Council

The student council children (Lola Akanmu, Emma McFadian, Eva Carter, Lillie Geraghty, Vincent McLoughlin, Amelia Jamieson, Eloise Lake, Samuel Waley, Jacob Lewis, Jake Steer, Karolina Velisca and Talha Zafar) have been absolutely amazing this year and have certainly been an important voice for the children at Stimpson Avenue Academy – what has been so impressive is that they really HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE AND IMPROVED LIFE AT STIMPSON AVENUE ACADEMY. They are currently creating a newsletter to tell you all about their work this year but to mention just a few of the changes: they have supported the opening of the garden, requested water fountains which will be put in place in the playground, chosen equipment for the school, created the pupil-friendly version of the creed, instigated the change in the school lunch rota and the setting up of a quiet room on a Friday as well as supporting the work to increase the number of clubs on offer to the children at Stimpson Avenue Academy.



Danielle Stone, our local councillor, came in and met with the School Council on Friday 24th June and they were very impressive in articulating the changes they would like to occur within the local community. I know she was very impressed and really enjoyed meeting them.

I have really appreciated the time I have spent with them this year and they are a credit to the school. Well done to them all!

Head boy and Head Girl for the next academic year

As a part of our Student Council, we have a Head Boy and a Head Girl and this is certainly something we are going to continue in the next academic year. Some of our Year 5's are currently preparing manifestos to share and then the children will vote for a new Head Boy and Head Girl. This is all very exciting and I will inform you who our new Head Boy and Head Girl will be in the last newsletter of this Summer Term.

Sports for all!

As I informed you in my last newsletter, Steve and Alex, our sports coaches, have been providing sports activities for the children at lunchtime. This has been really well received by the children and they love the additional fun opportunities and activities on offer.



School Uniform

Can we please remind you of our new uniform supplier, Talk2Me. You can order directly using their website (www.talk2me.co.uk) or if you do not have internet access, an order form is available from the school office.

Scooters

Please can I remind you that, for health and safety reasons at busy times, it is really important that children do not ride their scooters in the playground in the morning before school and until after 3.30 pm in the afternoon. Thank you for your support with this.

Car Parking

Please may I remind all parents and carers collecting their children from school, to ensure they always park in permitted areas and always show respect for the local community. This includes **not parking on the double lines even to drop children off**. The links we have with our community really matter and it is therefore really important we do not park in private car parks or on restricted areas, including yellow lines. This is also for the safety of us all.

We have contacted the Council to ask for support regarding this issue including a request to the Street Doctor for additional road markings. In response to this, they have sent a traffic warden to ensure everyone is parking safely and responsibly.

Attendance and Punctuality

At Stimpson Avenue Academy our attendance figure is **96.02%**, which is broadly in line with National Average but lower than our target of 96.5%. This is a slight increase since May and I would really appreciate your support in helping us to raise this further. Thank you. Please can I remind you that holiday is not permitted during school time and this will be unauthorised.

Punctuality continues to be a target for improvement, although we have just had our best result yet last week with only 4 lates across the whole school. This is excellent and I would like to thank you as it really does make a difference to all our children as they do not miss valuable learning times and additionally, interrupt the learning of others when they arrive late. English and Maths lessons commence promptly at 9.00 am, so it is imperative all children are in registration by 8.55 am at the very latest. A reminder that the school doors open at 8.45 am and the gates will close by 8.55 am. If your child arrives late at school, you will be given a slip to inform you that they were late. Parents/Carers of those children who are persistently late will be contacted directly by the school office and a letter will be sent home with follow up actions as appropriate.

If you are having difficulties getting your child into school on time, please do contact the school and we will endeavour to do all we can to support you to ensure your child can arrive on time.

Thank you for your continued support on such an important matter.

[Teaching your child to be safe online - Tips to be safe](#)

Some tips to be safe:

Talk to your children – Much like anything else, it is important your child knows what your expectations are, understands the basics of internet safety, and feels comfortable talking to you about problems and concerns.

Set guidelines - Create a set of guidelines about when and how long your children can use the computer. Be clear about what they can and cannot do online. If they need to complete chores or homework first, outline that as well. Discuss things like instant messaging, chatrooms, blogs, and social networking sites (Myspace, Facebook), virtual worlds (Club Penguin, RuneScape, Gaia, Webkinz).

Follow it through - It is important that you stick to your agreed rules. It is true that children need boundaries and, as much as they fight about it, they count on you to set them. Set a timer for online activity. Use monitoring software that tracks which websites they are visiting and what they are doing.

Pay attention - It is important that your computer is in a central location in your home and you know what your children are doing when they are on the computer. You would normally check who they go out with and where they go when they leave the house; this is no different.

Read more about it - If you ask your child what they are doing and you do not understand the answer, read more about it. Visit the website if possible, search for related news about it and see if you can find an article on About.com or another site. You can even email the Family Computing Guide. It is important to understand what your children are doing.

[Safeguarding](#)

In the questionnaire feedback, some of you stated you are unsure about whom to share concerns with if you were worried about the safety of any children at Stimpson Avenue Academy. The following information gives details about whom you can contact with any concerns about any child at Stimpson Avenue Academy.

The designated safeguarding officers at the school are:

Sarah Bennett (Executive Principal)
Kimberley Kemp (Head of school)
Mia Lewis (Assistant Principal)
Tina Berlingieri (Family Support Worker)
Abi Scott (Senior Leadership Team)



You also call directly to the MASH team with any concerns including those involving children within the local community. I hope this helps to clarify who and what you can do if you have any concerns about the safety of your or another child.

Safeguarding - Stranger Danger

On a serious note, which no one would question, the safety of our children is paramount. I would really appreciate it if you could remind your children about stranger danger; especially remind older children who walk to school about the importance of walking with others and not talking to strangers. If you or your child has any concerns, please always share them with us.

Please be aware that if your child walks alone or with other children, they may be at an increased risk. I would strongly recommend that children in Year 4 or younger are escorted into school and if they are in Years 5 and 6, they walk with other children. If your child is to be allowed to walk home after school, you must provide us with written permission.

Thank you for your support in such a crucial matter.

Although we all continue to enjoy the last few weeks of the Summer Term, we are also excitedly planning for September. I am so looking forward to the Autumn Term and us all working together to continue building the school from strength to strength. I really hope your child enjoys the end of their academic year and is equally excited about their next year at Stimpson Avenue Academy. If any worries do remain after the transition events, however, please do ensure you contact the school, as it is so important that every child has a relaxing summer with no worries. I will write before the Summer break with my final letter for this academic year!

Thank you.

With very best wishes,



Kimberley Kemp
Head of School

Key Reminders and Key Dates

Key Dates

Monday, 4 July:	Transition Day
Wednesday, 6 July:	Reports out to parents
Saturday, 9 July:	Helping Hands Summer Fair (12.00 pm – 2.00 pm)
Tuesday, 12 July:	Celebration Parent Consultation Drop-in Evening (3.30 pm – 7.30 pm)
Wednesday, 13 July:	Year 6 Leavers' Celebration and Year 6 Celebration Parent Consultation Drop-in Evening (3.30 pm – 7.30 pm)
Thursday, 14 July :	Year 6 Party Event

Open Door Policy

I strongly believe in close partnership with parents/carers and the importance of this to ensure every child achieves the best they can in all areas of school life. I would therefore like to remind you that if you have any concerns, please do always come in and discuss them with staff. If you would like to speak to any member of staff or myself, and you cannot get hold of us directly, please call the school office. You can also email me on head@stimpsonsavenorthants-ecl.gov.uk.

Illness/ sickness and procedures for informing the school

Please may I remind you that if your child experiences any sickness or diarrhoea, in line with guidelines, you are politely requested that your child be kept off for 48 hours. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

If your child is absent, please ensure you report their absence by 9.00 am on a **daily** basis. An answerphone is available to leave a message and please ensure you leave their name, class and reason for absence. This is really important for safeguarding purposes and if we do not hear from you, our first day response procedures mean we will always follow up children not attending school with a text/phone call. Naturally, this can be a time-consuming process and you calling will help the office run more efficiently. Additionally, it means if an older child who walks to school on their own does not arrive at school, we can ensure we are aware at the earliest opportunity. If your child is off with vomiting or diarrhoea, in line with the policy of 48 hours, they are required to be absent from school, we will mark them absent for both days **as long as you make it clear this is the reason they are off on the first day**. If your child is not back in school on the third day, you will please need to telephone the school again. Thank you for your help with this.

Term Dates

Please can I remind you that as we are an Academy, on some occasions our term dates are different to Northamptonshire County Council. Therefore, looking on Northamptonshire County Council's website will sometimes not provide you accurate information. Our term dates are on our website and they are as follows:

2016 - Term starts	2016 - Term ends
School closes 3.15 pm Wednesday 20 th July	
Monday 5 th September	Friday 21 st October
Tuesday 1 st November	Tuesday 20 th December

2017 - Term starts	2017 - Term ends
Thursday 5 th January	Friday 10 th February
Monday 20 th February	Friday 31 st March
Wednesday 19 th April	Friday 26 th May
Monday 5 th June	Friday 21 st July

Please Note that Teacher Training Days may change

Teacher Training Days 2016 Children not in School
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Thursday 1 st September

Friday 2 nd September

Monday 31 st October

Teacher Training Days 2017 Children not in School
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Wednesday 4 th January

Tuesday 18 th April (possibility of this being swapped with the polling day)
